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August 1, 2008

TO : Guy Davenport

FROM : Larry Beerkircher, 
Pelagic Observer Program

SUBJECT: Second quarter (2008) observer coverage summary.

The Pelagic Observer Program (POP) achieved a 32.8% overall coverage rate (4.8% outside the Gulf of Mexico) for the second quarter period of 2008 (April 1 to June 30). Selection letters were sent by certified mail service (return receipt) on March 15, 2008 to 22 vessel permit holders (owners and/or operators) who were selected for coverage based on fishing activity in the northwestern Atlantic (excluding the Gulf of Mexico) for notification of observer coverage. Also, on February 15th, 2008, selection letters were sent by certified mail service (return receipt) to an additional 55 vessel permit holders (owners and/or operators) who were selected for coverage based on fishing activity in the Gulf of Mexico. The POP had the responsibility of the regular coverage requirement in the Northwest Atlantic, including 100 % observer coverage between March 9 and June 9 the Gulf of Mexico. During a part of this quarter the POP was also assigned responsibility for deploying observers on board 2 vessels involved in a cooperative research project in the FEC and SAB Closed Areas, as well as on board 2 vessels fishing experimental gear in the Gulf of Mexico. In general this report will only cover regular fishery effort (i.e. only non- experimental coverage); however experimental effort and associated incidental take will be shown in a table.

Of special note, there were three (3) vessels (Victoria, Tran Brothers, and Morning Stars) selected for coverage in Quarter 1 (2008) which had fishing effort in both Quarter 1 and Quarter 2.

Further, there were two (2) vessels (Adam C and Daytona) selected for coverage in Quarter 2 but had fishing effort in both Quarter 2 and 3. For the purposes of this quarterly report, vessel hauls on or after April 1 and up to and including June 30, along with any incidental takes observed during this quarterly period (number of sets observed, days at-sea, animals caught) will be included in this summary. Overall during this quarter, observers spent 881 days at sea on 37 fishing vessels, which resulted in 614 hauls observed and a coverage rate of 32.8%. During the 72 observed trips (Tables 1 and 2), set effort occurred in the geographical areas of the Gulf of Mexico (GOM), the Florida East Coast (FEC), the South Atlantic Bight (SAB), and the Mid Atlantic Bight (MAB).

During the regular fishery pelagic longline trips covered by observers, a total of 449,599 hooks were fished. The total catch observed consisted of 14,160 fish representing 54 species of fish. The catch data was comprised of 2,970 swordfish, 83 bigeye tuna, 3138 yellowfin tuna, 316 bluefin tuna, 17 albacore tuna, 654 other tuna species, 2,222 dolphin fish (mahi), 192 wahoo, 576 billfish species, 1,851 other finfish (escolar, lancetfish, etc.), 94 skates/rays, 22 small coastal sharks, 1,607 large coastal sharks, and 312 pelagic sharks. During the quarter, observers also recorded incidental takes of protected species (Table 3) which included 56 sea turtles (46-leatherback-alive, 2-leatherback-dead, 1-leatherback-unknown; 7-loggerhead-alive), in addition to 4 marine mammals (2-Risso's dolphin-alive, 1-Killer whale-alive, 1-Sperm whale-alive) and 1 seabird (1-Brown pelican-alive). No sawfish catches during the quarter; this species is not likely to occur in the pelagic environment. Table 4 shows effort and incidental take inside the closed areas and during GoMex experimental fishing (experimental effort); incidental take in this fishery comprised 4 sea turtles (4-leatherback-alive).

Because a majority of the trips selected and observed during this quarter occurred due to the March 9th - June 9th period of 100% observer coverage in the Gulf or were part of experimental fishing effort (71 trips, 91% of total trips observed in Quarter 2) a complete discussion on vessels not observed is not provided in this report. Instead, only vessels selected for coverage outside the 100% coverage requirement in the Gulf of Mexico are reported on with respect to non-compliance. During the quarter, the POP did not place observers on 15 of 22 of these vessels selected (68%,

Table 5); thus reducing the target coverage of the POP by 37 sets. However, it should be noted that coverage of these vessels was made difficult by the diversion of all of the POP's active observers, excepting one, to either the Gulf of Mexico from the beginning of the quarter through June, or the experimental fishing project(s). There were eight selected vessels listed in Table 5 as not being covered due to no observer being available. These vessels reduced the POP's coverage opportunities by a minimum of 30 sets. Four vessels did not conduct pelagic longline fishing operations during the quarter and the remainder (three vessels) did not take an observer due to lack of a safety decal, inadequate bunk/liferaft capacity, or poor communication with the POP office.

In keeping with the BO reporting requirements from the POP office, observers filled out the turtle handling and release gear forms on 37 of the 39 second quarter covered vessels (including Gulf of Mexico and experimental fishery vessels). Of the vessels selected and observed in Quarter 1, 78% of the vessels had the equipment needed for removing gear from turtles in the water (at least 3 of 4 items aboard), and 81% had most of the equipment for removing gear if the turtle is boated (6 or more items aboard). Additionally, 22% of the observed vessels also had the turtle tether aboard, which is voluntary at this time. A PDF document of the observer turtle gear forms will be posted on a secure site of the POP website. Finally, the cumulative number of unique vessels observed since the effective date of the sea turtle conservation regulations (July, 2004), now stands at 96 vessels covered (Table 6).

Attachments:

Tables 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

cc: The POP office files; Richard Cook, NOAA-Fisheries SERO/OLE
liaison.

Table 1: Regular coverage (8%) of the longline fleet (excluding vessels covered under the 100% requirement in the Gulf of Mexico). Number of vessels observed, areas of fishing activity, total hauls observed, and total days at-sea conducted by the SEFSC Miami Laboratory POP from April 1 to June 30, 2008.

Vessel Name	Trip Number	Area	Total Hauls	Total Sea Days
643282 OUTLAW	X01014	FEC	2	5
650401 SHARON G II	D04053	MAB	6	7
650401 SHARON G II	D04054	MAB	5	7
586413 HATUNA MATATA	A05002	SAB	7	12
656259 KRISTIN LEE	W04001	FEC	3	6
1115845 SEA BOUND	E05004	SAB	4	2
611243 ERICA LYNN	X01015	FEC	6	8
656259 KRISTIN LEE	V04001	FEC	5	9
683286 CLAYTON REED	X03009	FEC	6	9
663691 STRAIGHT FLUSH	Q04002	FEC	1	7
510728 MISS SUZANNE	D04052	SAB	7	9
Totals	12		52	81

Table 2: Enhanced coverage of the longline fleet covered under the 100% requirement in the Gulf of Mexico. Number of vessels observed, areas of fishing activity, total hauls observed, and total days at-sea conducted by the SEFSC Miami Laboratory POP from April 1st to June 30, 2008.

Vessel Name	Trip Number	Area	Total Hauls	Total Sea Days
643282 OUTLAW	X01014	GOM	2	3
911014 PEACEFUL LADY	N04004	GOM	1	7
668316 CAPT LUU	L04001	GOM	7	11
905679 CAPT MIKE	P04002	GOM	9	12
936041 CECILIA II	R05001	GOM	7	12
904300 KIM NHI	Y04003	GOM	8	15
1029594 QUEEN MARY	V02002	GOM	8	13
600048 KIM THANH II	B06002	GOM	11	15
1168403 ALEXANDER	N05002	GOM	3	5
1029712 KENNY BOY	T03004	GOM	8	14
681390 TRAN BROTHERS	J04002	GOM	9	13
613745 MISS CYNTHIA RENEE	K04006	GOM	15	23
590729 LONG SHOT	X03008	GOM	11	14
1168403 ALEXANDER	N05003	GOM	9	12
919799 BLUE SEA I	L04002	GOM	9	14
669893 MASTER RAY	O04001	GOM	10	14
586413 HATUNA MATATA	A05001	GOM	2	7
926359 QUEENSLAND	H04002	GOM	11	17
937416 KIM THANH PN	T02042	GOM	10	14
937416 KIM THANH PN	T02044	GOM	12	16
911431 CAPT DAVID	E05002	GOM	11	14
1168403 ALEXANDER	Y04005	GOM	13	15
613745 MISS CYNTHIA RENEE	K04007	GOM	13	17
600048 KIM THANH II	B06005	GOM	10	14
586413 HATUNA MATATA	S01098	GOM	3	7
1168403 ALEXANDER	N05001	GOM	10	14
669893 MASTER RAY	E05001	GOM	10	14
905679 CAPT MIKE	P04003	GOM	7	11
911014 PEACEFUL LADY	N04005	GOM	9	17
668316 CAPT LUU	S03001	GOM	8	12

Table 2 (continued): Enhanced coverage of the longline fleet covered under the 100% requirement in the Gulf of Mexico. Number of vessels observed, areas of fishing activity, total hauls observed, and total days at-sea conducted by the SEFSC Miami Laboratory POP from April 1st to June 30, 2008.

Vessel Name	Trip Number	Area	Total Hauls	Total Sea Days
911631 ST JOSEPH & PETER	Q03005	GOM	11	17
918933 MISS LENA	I04003	GOM	8	12
600048 KIM THANH II	B06004	GOM	10	14
937416 KIM THANH PN	T02043	GOM	11	16
902659 NIGHT STAR II	P01137	GOM	14	23
938537 LREOY TENNISHOE	G05002	GOM	11	15
904300 KIM NHI	T04001	GOM	11	15
663691 STRAIGHT FLUSH	Q04002	GOM	5	5
925122 BLUEFIN	D05001	GOM	6	10
600048 KIM THANH II	B06003	GOM	4	7
918932 MORNING STARS	K05002	GOM	9	13
938537 LEROY TENNISHOE	G05001	GOM	10	14
904300 KIM NHI	Y04004	GOM	10	14
1029712 KENNY BOY	T03005	GOM	13	18
902659 NIGHT STAR II	K05003	GOM	11	15
911431 CAPT DAVID	E05003	GOM	21	18
1029712 KENNY BOY	H04003	GOM	12	14
681390 TRAN BROTHERS	J04001	GOM	1	2
918932 MORNING STARS	K05001	GOM	2	3
926754 SEA ANGEL	J02074	GOM	11	12
995485 SEA QUEEN III	V03001	GOM	9	12
911631 ST JOSEPH & PETER	Q03004	GOM	9	14
918933 MISS LENA	I04002	GOM	5	9
923317 SEA QUEEN	S02003	GOM	9	12
1029594 QUEEN MARY	V02003	GOM	9	14
1094947 VICTORIA	D05002	GOM	9	13
995485 SEA QUEEN III	V03002	GOM	10	14
586413 HATUNA MATATA	A05003	GOM	10	19
923317 SEA QUEEN	S02004	GOM	10	14
1029594 QUEEN MARY	N05004	GOM	11	13
911631 ST JOSEPH & PETER	Q03006	GOM	11	13
590729 LONG SHOT	N04006	GOM	11	15
1094947 VICTORIA	T02041	GOM	2	3
Totals	63		562	808

Table 3: Percent coverage (by hauls), the incidental take of Protected Resource species (turtles, mammals, seabirds), and hook effort summarized by geographical area for April 1 to June 30, 2008 during regular fishing operations.

(A=Alive, D=Dead, U=Unknown. LB=Leatherback, LH=Loggerhead, O=other)

AREA	TOTAL HAULS OBSERVED	REQUIRED								
		8%	TURTLES			MAMMALS		BIRDS		
		COVERAGE	A	D	U	A	D	A	D	
			LB/LH/O							
GOM-2	562 (70.3%)	64	45/	3/0	2	1	4	0	1	0
FEC-3	23 (11.5%)	16	0/	1/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAB-4	18 (3.6%)	40	0/	2/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MAB-5	11 (4.0%)	22	1/	1/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OFFSHORE	0 (0.0%)	8	0/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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TOTAL	614 (32.8%)	150	46/	7/0	2	1	4	0	1	0

Hook effort Summary:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Hook effort</u>
GOM	416,467
FEC	9,797
SAB	14,665
MAB	8,670
TOTAL	449,599

Table 4: Effort (hauls and hooks) and the incidental take of Protected Resource species (turtles, mammals, seabirds summarized by geographical area for April 1 to June 30, 2008 during experimental fishing operations. Hauls outside the GOM were inside closed areas. (A=Alive, D=Dead, U=Unknown. LB=Leatherback, LH=Loggerhead, O=other)

AREA	TOTAL HAULS OBSERVED	TURTLES			MAMMALS		BIRDS		
		A	D	U	A	D	A	D	
		LB/LH/O							
GOM-2	61	4/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEC-3	1	0/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAB-4	9	0/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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TOTAL	71	4/	0/0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Hook effort Summary:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Hook effort</u>
GOM	36,897
FEC	500
SAB	4,615
TOTAL	42,012

Table 5: Listing of selected vessels that were not covered by Pelagic Observer Program (POP) during Quarter 2, 2008 (April 1 to June 30); excluding vessels selected for coverage in the Gulf of Mexico. Short explanations provided. Vessel non-compliance of observer coverage may be based on more than one category of explanation. The following categories are provided: (1)No bunk available;(2)Observer presence exceeds the liferaft capacity;(3) Lack of current CFVSE decal; (4)No communication with observer office/staff; (5)Not fishing (involved in another fishery);(6)Not fishing (new owner, repair, sunk, no permits); and (7)other.

<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>Doc #</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
BOBALOU	600322	Reasons 5 and 7. Certified letter received. Owner contacted POP early in quarter, but no observer was available. Later in quarter vessel did not fish due to repairs. POP requested 4 sets for the quarter. Logbook submissions: Landings reported on 4/28.
CAPT. BOB	929813	Reason 4. Certified letter received. Owner did not contact the POP until late in Quarter. However, he offered to take an observer on a voluntary trip during the next quarter. Observer was deployed on 7/6. POP requested 4 sets for the quarter.
DELPHINUS	671174	Reasons 1 and 2. Certified letter received. POP requested 5 sets for the quarter. Landings reported on 4/27, 5/28, 6/7, 6/16.

Table 5 (continued): Listing of selected vessels that were not covered by Pelagic Observer Program (POP) during Quarter 2, 2008 (April 1 to June 30); excluding vessels selected for coverage in the Gulf of Mexico. Short explanations provided. Vessel non-compliance of observer coverage may be based on more than one category of explanation. The following categories are provided: (1)No bunk available;(2)Observer presence exceeds the liferaft capacity;(3) Lack of current CFVSE decal; (4)No communication with observer office/staff; (5)Not fishing (involved in another fishery);(6)Not fishing (new owner, repair, sunk, no permits); and (7)other.

<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>Doc #</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
EAGLE EYE	669872	Reason 7. Certified letter received. Owner called the POP with advance notice, but no observer was available. POP requested 5 sets for the quarter. Landings reported 4/21, 5/27.
EAGLE EYE II	1022773	Reason 7. Certified letter received. Owner called the POP with advance notice, but no observer was available. POP requested 4 sets for the quarter. Landings reported 4/30, 6/8.
FRANCES ANNE	604915	Reason 7. Certified letter received. Owner called the POP to schedule an observer, but no observer was available during that time. POP requested 5 sets for the quarter. Vessel landings reported 5/21, 5/28.
JANICE ANN	646506	Reason 4, 5. Certified letter received. No communication from vessel; however, vessel did not report any HMS activity during quarter 2. POP requested 3 sets for the quarter.

Table 5 (continued): Listing of selected vessels that were not covered by Pelagic Observer Program (POP) during Quarter 2, 2008 (April 1 to June 30); excluding vessels selected for coverage in the Gulf of Mexico. Short explanations provided. Vessel non-compliance of observer coverage may be based on more than one category of explanation. The following categories are provided: (1)No bunk available;(2)Observer presence exceeds the liferaft capacity;(3) Lack of current CFVSE decal; (4)No communication with observer office/staff; (5)Not fishing (involved in another fishery);(6)Not fishing (new owner, repair, sunk, no permits); and (7)other.

<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>Doc #</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
KELLY ANN	633432	Reason 7. Certified letter received. No observer available. POP requested 5 sets for the quarter. Vessel reported landings on 4/17.
MONICA	59741	Reason 4 and 7. Certified letter received. No observer available, but owner did not keep POP well-informed of vessel activities. POP requested 4 set for the quarter. Vessel reported landings on 5/6, 5/28, 6/9.
NANCY EVELYN	NC8813WR	Reason 7. Certified letter received. No observer available. POP requested 1 set for the quarter. Vessel reported landings on 5/15, 5/27, 5/30, 6/3, 6/12.
PROVIDER	602041	Reason 4 and 7. Certified letter received Most likely an observer would not have been available, but vessel never contacted the POP before any trip. POP requested 3 sets for the quarter. Vessel landings 5/6, 6/2, 6/17.

Table 5 (continued): Listing of selected vessels that were not covered by Pelagic Observer Program (POP) during Quarter 2, 2008 (April 1 to June 30); excluding vessels selected for coverage in the Gulf of Mexico. Short explanations provided. Vessel non-compliance of observer coverage may be based on more than one category of explanation. The following categories are provided: (1)No bunk available;(2)Observer presence exceeds the liferaft capacity;(3) Lack of current CFVSE decal; (4)No communication with observer office/staff; (5)Not fishing (involved in another fishery);(6)Not fishing (new owner, repair, sunk, no permits); and (7)other.

<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>Doc #</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
SEA BORN	943313	Reason 4, 5. No communication from vessel; however, vessel did not report any HMS activity during quarter 2. POP requested 3 sets for the quarter.
SEVEN ARROWS	611304	Reason 4, 5. No communication from vessel; however, vessel did not report any HMS activity during quarter 2. POP requested 5 sets for the quarter.
TAR BABY	989329	Reason 4, 5. No communication from vessel; however, vessel did not report any HMS activity during quarter 2. POP requested 2 sets for the quarter.
WATERSPORT	918782	Reason 7. Certified letter received. No observer available. POP requested 2 sets for the quarter. Vessel reported multiple landings for quarter 2.

Table 6: The POP coverage completed aboard the pelagic longline fleet by quarter and year since the publication of the 2004 Biological Opinion. The number of trips observed include vessels that are covered multiple times during a quarter. The number of unique vessels observed represents those vessels only covered at least once by an observer.

Quarter	Year	No. of Vessels Selected	No. of Trips Observed	No. of Unique Vessels Observed
3	2004	44	29	29
4	2004	30	28	14
1	2005	34	26	12
2	2005	45	22	9
3	2005	41	19	7
4	2005	28	14	1
1	2006	31	20	4
2	2006	33	23	2
3	2006	39	22	2
4	2006	24	17	1
1	2007	20	17	1
2	2007	65	43	4
3	2007	42	28	4
4	2007	29	20	1
1	2008	81	33	1
2	2008	77	79	4
Cumulative Totals			440	96
